

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE  
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
THURSDAY, August 11, 2016 at 8:30 am**

**Location of Meeting:** the Arnold Conference Center, located in the Regan Building, Eleanor Slater Hospital, 111 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI

**Person presiding:** Richard Leclerc

**Members present:** Richard Leclerc, Linda Bryan, Maxine Heywood, Esther Picone, Sandra DelSesto, Mark Fields, Wendy Looker, Ruth Feder

**Appointed members present:** David Spencer, Megan Clingham

**Legislators:** None

**Ex-officio members present:** Sam Marullo (GOV), Alice Woods (RIDE), Corinna Roy (BHDDH), Jeffrey Hill (RIDOH)

**Guests:** Elizabeth Kretchman Farrar, Judy Fox, Brenda Amodei, Trisha Suggs, Dan Fitzgerald (BHDDH); Shannon Spurlock (RIPRC); Lisa Conlan, (PSNRI); Julia Steiny (Youth Restoration Project); Obed Papp (City of Providence); Ines Garcia (CPRS); Linda Tomasso (TPC); Christian Delacruz (FLMRI); Kara Foley (RI Kids Count)

**Staff:** James Dealy, BHDDH

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am by Richard Leclerc. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**Review of Minutes:**

Richard asked for a correction on page two of the July 12 minutes. Under the section titled 2014 and 2015 Annual reports, in the second paragraph, it should state that the 2015 annual report was approved as amended. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the correction and seconded. Minutes were approved as amended.

**Committee Reports:**

**Workgroup:**

Lisa Conlan stated that her subcommittee would be the advisory board for Healthy Transitions. They are working on best practices and looking for ways to publicize. The group would like to add the young adults' voice to be better aware of their need for services. There will be a meeting with DCYF regarding sex trafficking.

Lisa stated that Article 23 entitled "Relating Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children: did not pass. They need to take another look at the language

**Olmstead:**

Ruth Feder said they had their first meeting on July 21. The next meeting will be held on August 25 at 10:30 am in the Arnold Conference Center.

Ruth explained that Olmstead refers to U. S. Supreme Court ruling on June 22, 1999 in the case Olmstead vs L.C. and E.W. In this case, two women in a facility in Georgia were wrongfully detained. The ruling requires public agencies to provide services in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.

Ruth stated they need more people to work on the committee.

Brenda Amodei said that everyone is looking at housing issues for so many different groups. She asked why they don't have one big committee to oversee all of the groups needing housing.

Collaboration is needed between the various segments/sub-committees. Right now everyone is working in silos, but housing is needed across the board.

Corinna Roy and Jim Dealy spoke on independent housing through transitions.

Lisa mentioned legal and access issues. She noted that the clients should be in the least restrictive environment. A person needs their dignity and rights. They also need enough adequate supports.

### **Prevention:**

Ruth Feder said that the area of prevention has significant major input. They plan to add a mentor from the LGBT community. They formed an Epidemiological sub-committee as part of the Evidence-Based Workgroup to develop a process for review and support. They will have a semi-final report in a couple of months. The next advisory committee will be held on October 13 following the Governor's Council Meeting. They will be sending letters to DCYF and RIDE asking them to participate.

### **By-Laws Revision:**

Richard spoke on Title 40.1 - Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals Chapter 40.1-29 - Governor's Council on Behavioral Health (the council).

Richard said there is a need to submit legislation to modernize the language in this chapter of the RI General Laws. He pointed out that we need to change the words 'mental health, retardation' to 'behavioral healthcare, disabilities'.

Richard also said we need five (5) new public members for a total of twenty-three (23).

Dave Spencer asked if a youth organization could be one of the designated additional members to the council. There is a need for representation of youth organizations. Richard said that in section three a clause could be added that representation of youth organizations be considered as one of the additional (23) public members. It was suggested that a child advocate would be a good fit for that position. Lisa suggested that we define young adults as 18-25. Ruth Feder reminded everyone that there are two different categories: youth and young adults.

Based on suggestions made during this meeting and initial proposed changes presented to the Council, the Chair is moving the recommendations forward to the Governor's office for changes to be made to state statute referencing the Governor's Council on Behavioral Health. Rich will provide status updates to the Council at future Council meetings.

### **Health Disparities:**

Shannon Spurlock gave a presentation. Shannon spoke of the disparities and inequalities of health care with a focus on Behavioral Health. She said there are social and racial disparities. Everyone should have access to the same level of care. Shannon said there is training available online.

Please see the two handouts attached.

### **2017 Block Grant Application:**

### **BHDDH Update:**

Corinna Roy reported that the CCBHC is working to enhance accessibility and the continuation of health care. Crisis services are the next to be revamped. In the community, people don't know where to go. There is still a lot of work to be done by the providers, staffs and consultants. A final cost report is needed. It is due the end of the month.

**EOHHS Update:**

No one present to report.

Dave Spencer asked for a report from OHHS for the next meeting.

Richard said he will sent a letter to OHHS asking for a report.

**DCYF Update:**

No one present to report.

Dave Spencer asked for a report from DCYF for the next meeting.

Richard said he will sent a letter to DCYF asking for a report.

**DOH Update:**

Jeff said there will be a second Health Equity Summit. It will be held at the Convention Center in December

He reported that they expect to have a two year associate from CDC help out with the Rhode Island Suicide Prevention Project

**Old/New Business**

BHDDH legal counsel provided guidance to the Council that since the Council only serves as an advisory body, according to the RI open meetings law, it is not required to take meeting minutes; however, Rich indicated that although not required, minutes of all Council meetings will be kept and posted and all committees of the Council will be required to take minutes regarding all actions taken and recommendations made by the respective committees. Both the Council and its committees are bound by the open meetings requirements to post notice of meetings to the Secretary of State's site.

**Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 by vote of the members.

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 1:00 PM**

**Arnold Conference Center, Regan Building, 111 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI**

**Statutory and Public members, please let Bette Ann McHugh know if you cannot attend.**

**This meeting is open to the public.**

**If you plan to attend and you require special accommodations to ensure equal participation, please contact the Behavioral Healthcare Services at 462-5686.**